

# Weekly National Intelligencer.

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## Weekly National Intelligencer.

BY GALES & SEATON.

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## THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

The interests of the District of Columbia formed in an unusual degree a topic of discussion during the last session of the late Congress.

In the House of Representatives the people of the District were fortunate in having as the chairman of the committee appointed to consult for their welfare and that of the Government an esteemed member from the State of Massachusetts, the Hon. CHAS. DELANO, who brought to the discharge of his duties a fidelity and capacity worthy of grateful recognition. We have already adverted to the project of a bill which he introduced at the late session proposing to authorize the people of this District to send a Delegate to Congress for the purpose of representing in that body their interests and that of the Government, so far as the latter is involved in the local surroundings of Washington and its vicinity. Mr. Delano, like every conscientious legislator when charged to consult for interests which are at once those of the resident population of the District and of the entire people of the United States, felt, it would seem, the need of some responsible representative to whom the Committee on the District might repair for advice and guidance in the adoption of measures devised for the welfare of the community which looks to the Congress of the United States as its constitutional guardian. Without such a responsible representative of the important interests, affecting it, may be, equally the local relations of the Government and of the resident population, the members composing the Committee on the District of Columbia, coming from remote sections of the country, are comparatively cut off from a source of authentic information, to which they should have access in maturing the measures recommended for adoption by Congress. In the absence of such a recognized representative of the District, sitting in the body of Congress, and whom that body, as well as the people concerned, might hold responsible for his suggestions and recommendations, we now have this responsibility divided among municipal functionaries and prominent citizens, with the conflicting counsels inseparable from all advice or information given under such circumstances. Mr. Delano, in bringing his proposition before Congress, has but revived a measure which that staunch friend of the District and of the Government, JOSEPH KENT, of Maryland, sought to establish during his Congressional career. We hope that the wise suggestion may eventually command the favorable consideration of Congress.

A measure most intimately affecting the District was passed by the late Congress, in the shape of a bill reorganizing the judicial system, which, with subsequent amendments, has obtained for the last sixty years and more. The original bill, which proposed to effect this change, was introduced into the Senate on the 18th of June last, by Mr. HARRIS, of New York, from the Judiciary Committee, but was not then pressed to a vote for final passage.

Judge JOSEPH CASEY, of Pennsylvania, has been confirmed by the Senate as Chief Justice of the Court of Claims.

## INDIANA.

Despatches in the Western papers state that the Legislature of Indiana adjourned sine die on the 9th instant "without passing any appropriation bills." The failure to pass the bills referred to resulted, as our readers have been informed, from the absence of the Republican members of the House, who withdrew in order to defeat certain measures proposed by the Democrats. Having left Indianapolis, the capital of the State, their attendance in the Legislature could not be enforced in the ordinary way; and they did not return until late in the night of Sunday the 8th instant, when the last day upon which any legislation could be accomplished had expired. No appropriation bills were passed, and, says a letter, "the Governor suddenly finds the benevolent institutions, penitentiaries, and State Government on his hands, and no money appropriated with which to carry them on for the ensuing two years. He announces his intention of carrying them on, notwithstanding the action of this Legislature."

## CAPTURE OF AN ENGLISH STEAMER.

Accounts from South Carolina state that the magnificent English steamer Queen of the Wave was on Sunday, the 1st instant, stranded near the mouth of the North-Santee, whilst endeavoring to run into Georgetown, (S. C.) The gun boat Comanagh got sight of her, but was unable to follow her until the tide rose, and then found her aground and abandoned by her crew, who had first attempted to blow her up, but the explosion only slightly lifted her upper deck. The Comanagh sent a boat, armed with a howitzer, to board her, and met a rebel boat coming from her with a lieutenant and six soldiers on board. They surrendered, and were sent prisoners to Port Royal. The cargo of the Queen of the Wave consists of clothing and ammunition, and is said to be very valuable. Several vessels had been sent from Port Royal to try and get her off, and, if not, to save as much as possible of her cargo.

## YET ANOTHER CAPTURE.

NEW YORK, MARCH 13.—The steam gunboat Quaker City has arrived from Port Royal by the way of Charleston on the 8th instant. She comes hither to repair and receive a new boiler.

On the 9th instant, off Cape Fear, she captured the British steamer Duoro, after an exciting chase of six hours. She had a cargo of four hundred and twenty bales of cotton, and was bound from Wilmington, North Carolina, to Nassau. She was ordered to New York for adjudication, and has arrived here to-night.

## CONFIRMATIONS BY THE SENATE.

Promotions in the Ordnance Department.

Major Wm. A. Thornton to be Lieut. Colonel.

Capt. Alex. B. Dyer to be Major.

Capt. Franklin D. Callender to be Major.

Capt. Charles F. Kingsbury to be Major.

TO BE MAJOR GENERALS OF VOLUNTEERS.

Brig. Gen. Frank P. Blair, Jr., Nov. 29, 1862.

Brig. Gen. C. C. Washburne, Nov. 29, 1862.

TO BE BRIGADIER GENERALS OF VOLUNTEERS.

Col. Lyander C. Cutler, 6th Wisconsin Vols.

Lieut. Col. Henry Baxter, 7th Michigan Vols.

Major Henry J. Hunt, 5th Artillery.

Capt. George W. Getty, 5th Artillery.

Col. Beatty, 3d Ohio Vols.

## LETTERS OF MARQUE.

It may be within the recollection of our readers that three weeks ago—it was on the 21st of February—the New York "Chamber of Commerce" held a special meeting "to hear a report from the committee appointed to recommend to the Chamber what action should be taken by it in reference to the continued piracy of the Alabama and other vessels fitted out in Great Britain."

At a previous meeting held by this association, on the 21st of October last, the facts connected with the burning of the ship Brilliant and other American vessels were submitted for consideration, and a series of resolutions was then adopted expressive of the "sense" of the "Chamber," copies of which were duly forwarded to the Secretary of State for transmission to our Minister at London.

We have before us, in pamphlet form, an authentic report of the proceedings that were had by the Chamber on the 21st ultimo, and as this association has latterly assumed to itself the duty of making a "deliverance" on divers topics of political as well as commercial concern, we are glad to find that, in the exposition of its doings on the occasion indicated, the Secretary, Mr. JOHN AUSTIN STURGEON, Jr., has thought proper to omit from his certified record any minute of a proceeding which was understood at the time to have made a part of the transactions of the Chamber on that day. For, after a very judicious report on the subject in hand had been read by Mr. A. A. Low, (the chairman of the special committee on the subject under advisement,) it appears, from the newspaper account of the meeting, that the following proceedings took place. We quote from the report of the New York Tribune:

"The report and resolutions were unanimously adopted, and copies ordered to be sent to the President, to Congress, to the Chambers of Commerce of Liverpool and London, and elsewhere.

"Gen. WETMORE presented the following resolution, and in support thereof made a brief speech:

"Resolved, That this Chamber approves and earnestly recommends the passage of the Senate bill now before the House of Representatives, granting authority to the President of the United States to issue letters of marque and reprisal for the protection of the commercial maritime rights of American citizens against the depredations of the Alabama and Florida and other piratical cruisers.

"Mr. LEOPOLD BIERWIRTH objected to the policy of committing the Chamber of Commerce to such a measure, and inquired what good could be attained by letters of marque under existing circumstances. Letters of marque and reprisal were synonymous. The Confederates had no commerce upon the ocean to destroy, and privateers, therefore, could do them no harm, but might lead to the loss of serious embarrassments.

"Gen. WETMORE responded, insisting that commercial men ought to assert the right of self-protection. In concluding, he said: 'I do not care whether the assault comes; whether from the Southern Confederacy, which grew up under the protection of the American flag, or from Liverpool in England or Havre in France, or from the commercial classes that grew rich by American commerce, or whence it comes, I must say we must evince a determination to protect ourselves against all such depredations. Therefore it is that I hope the resolution shall pass.'

Mr. BIERWIRTH again objected to the resolution, and remarked that it was a new theory that privateers were intended to protect the commerce of their own nation.

The President explained that the question was to the propriety of fitting out volunteer cruisers, and the resolution had reference to that object—the fitting out of volunteer vessels competent to take care of the Alabama and other piratical vessels preying on our trade.

"On the question being called, the resolution was adopted."

We regretted at the time what seemed to us this inconsiderate action on the part of the New York Chamber of Commerce, and that we were right in deeming it not only inconsiderate but injudicious, would seem to be the opinion of the association itself, as no minute of the transaction is preserved in the publication they have made, purporting to be "a true record of so much of the proceedings of the Chamber, at the special meeting of February 21, 1863, as relates to piracy upon American commerce."

The Congress at its late session passed the bill to which Gen. Wetmore referred in the resolution above cited, authorizing the President "in all domestic and foreign wars" "to issue to private armed vessels of the United States commissions or letters of marque and general reprisal, in such forms as he shall think proper, and under the seal of the United States, and make all needful rules and regulations for the government and conduct thereof, and for the adjudication and disposal of the prizes and salvages made by such vessels." The only limitation put upon this grant of present and contingent "war power" was the proviso "that the authority conferred by this act shall cease and terminate at the end of three years from the passage of the act."

While the President in thus clothed with full power under this head, it does not follow that he will deem it either necessary or judicious to exercise the authority conferred by the act, pending the "domestic war" in which the Government is now engaged, a war with an enemy who has no commerce upon which letters of marque may prey in the pursuit of their ordinary and legitimate vocation, if, indeed, in the present age of the world, it be proper to speak of such a vocation as being "legitimate" in any true sense of the term.

We suppose ourselves to make a statement which involves little or no risk of contradiction when we say that the bill passed by Congress on this subject found its chief motive and its conceived justification in the contingent uses to which it might be put, if, unfortunately, the country should at any time within the next three years be plunged into a "foreign war" with some maritime Power—a contingency for which it may have been thought proper to make some preparation, however sanguine may be the hopes of every citizen that we shall escape a calamity so great in itself, and likely to be so fatal to the success of the operations in which the Government is already engaged while coping with a "gigantic insurrection."

Congress, in authorizing the President to close the ports of the Insurgent States by proclamation, did not require him to perform this act if, in his judgment, it was not deemed expedient and proper; and in fact no such proclamation was ever issued, declaring insurgent ports no longer ports of entry under the laws of the United States. And in like manner Congress has renitted to the judgment of

the President a decision of the question whether it be necessary, judicious, or timely to issue letters of marque in the war now waged against a "domestic enemy" who has no commerce.

There are many considerations which, we are constrained to think, evince the impolicy of the step, especially at the present time. These considerations were ably enforced by Mr. Senator SUMNER while as yet the measure was pending in the Senate.

In the first place, the ordinary justification of the arming of privateers does not exist during a war with an enemy who has no mercantile bottoms abroad on the high seas. Private armed vessels licensed to cruise against an enemy are equipped in the hope of booty. It is in the booty they take that owners, officers, and crew find their sole reward for the hazards they run, and it is by the injury they thus do to the trade of the enemy that they confer any possible benefit on the Government in whose service they are enlisted. In the war with the insurgents it would seem that this incentive to the men engaged and this advantage to the Government are equally wanting.

But it may be said that such rovers of the sea will be effective in hunting down and seizing the foreign merchant vessels which now carry on an illicit trade in contraband with the Southern ports. Yet let it be remembered that it is in precisely this aspect that the possible good they do is offset by possibilities of another kind which must be prudently taken into account by the Government. It is well known, as was recalled by Mr. SUMNER, that according to ancient usage and the law of nations every privateer is entitled to belligerent rights, one of which is that most difficult, delicate, and dangerous of all, the much disputed right of search. There is no right of war with regard to which nations are more sensitive, and no nation has suffered more from its exercise. When we consider how the officers and crew of private armed vessels are constituted, we can see how much greater are the dangers which result from placing this right in their hands than in the hands of naval officers belonging to the regular service, and supposed to be trained in the duties and amenities of their profession. If it is not to be apprehended that the vexatious of neutral commerce under such a system will be the fruitful parent of international complaints and reclamations?

If it be said that these private armed cruisers may be employed in the search and capture of the Alabama and other similar depredators on our commerce the answer is easy. For such a service vessels possessing a strength of timber and a weight of metal beyond that of ordinary letters of marque will be necessary. If the Government proposes in this way to supplement the activity and energy of the navy, and deems that it can do so without any reflection on that arm of the national defence, we do not conceive that any roving commission of letters of marque is either necessary or proper. Let it be distinctly stated that the capture of such enemy vessels is the sole motive and object of the private armed cruisers thus authorized to enter the service of the country. And the Government, as a stimulus to their activity, might offer them a bonus for the capture of the Alabama, or of any similar ship engaged in depredating on our commerce.

We need not enumerate, in addition to these particular considerations, suggested by the present aspects of the war we are waging, the general objections of a moral kind which obtain against the species of warfare recognised by letters of marque. The civilization of the age, and the progress of the international code in tending to put itself abreast with that civilization, have stamped this licensed brigandage with the seal of condemnation. If many friends of the Government at home would regret to see it embark in such an enterprise where the risks are so great and the advantages so inappreciable, it is equally certain that our friends abroad would look with sorrow upon the stigma inflicted on our cause by a resort of such doubtful morality and questionable expediency. For it should be remembered that those who in England and elsewhere have recently been foremost in avowing their sympathy for the National Government are precisely the class of persons who have been most forward to denounce the predatory warfare which was once generally tolerated under the law of nations.

It surely is not necessary to cite authorities in condemnation of private war on the high seas. Gen. HALLECK, in his excellent treatise on International Law, holds the following language:

"It leads to the worst excesses and crimes, and has a corrupting influence upon all who engage in it, but cannot be punished as a breach of the law of nations. The English opinion of the world is most decidedly in favor of abolishing it, and recent events lead to the hope that all the commercial nations of both hemispheres will unite in no longer resorting, in time of war, to so barbarous a practice."

Chancellor Kent wrote to the same purport, as follows:

"Privateering, under all the restrictions which may have been adopted, is very liable to abuse. The object is not fame or chivalric warfare, but plunder and profit. The discipline of the crews is not apt to be of the highest order, and privateers are often guilty of enormous excesses, and become the scourge of neutral commerce. Under the discipline of the law, the business tends strongly to blunt the sense of private right and to nourish a lawless and fierce spirit of rapacity."

It is known that the United States, when as yet they were the youngest in the family of nations, took the lead in discountenancing the whole system of privateering. And, faithful to our best traditions on this subject, Mr. Secretary SEWARD, at the beginning of the present Administration, proposed to join in the Paris declaration of 1856, which announces, in the name of all Governments according to it, that "privateering is and remains abolished." We all remember how the adhesion of our Government to the declaration was frustrated at the time; but for this we can see no good reason in taking up at this date the weapon we were then ready to renounce, especially when it can be wielded with so little promise of advantage.

## CONGRESSIONAL.

### EXTRA SESSION OF THE SENATE.

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 1863.

The Hon. ALEXANDER RAMSEY, from the State of Minnesota, whose credentials were presented on the 5th of February, attended.

The oath prescribed by law having been administered to Mr. RAMSEY by the President pro tempore, he took his seat in the Senate.

Mr. McDUGALL submitted the following, which was considered by unanimous consent and agreed to:

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Treasury be directed to have prepared and presented to the Senate a statistical and general report upon the value and present condition of our foreign and domestic commerce, including as well that of the Pacific coast; and, further, to suggest what legislation, if any, is necessary to enlarge and protect the important interests involved.

On motion, the Senate proceeded to the consideration of Executive business.

FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 1863.

The Senate met at 11 o'clock A. M. After prayer by the Rev. Dr. Sunderland, and the reading of the journal of yesterday, the Senate, on motion of Mr. POMEROY, at quarter past eleven o'clock, proceeded to the consideration of Executive business.

SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 1863.

On motion of Mr. HARRIS, it was ordered that Hiram Paulding leave to withdraw his memorial and papers. Mr. LANE, of Kansas, presented the petition of Gilbert Vrooman, only surviving son and heir of Peter Vrooman, deceased, praying compensation for provisions, forage, and other supplies, furnished by his father to certain United States troops, during the war with Great Britain, in the year 1813. Referred to the Court of Claims.

On motion of Mr. COWAN, it was ordered that the report of the Court of Claims in the case of Theodore Adams be recommended to the Court of Claims.

Mr. ANTHONY presented a statement showing the practice of the Insurrectionists in appointing its standing committee. Ordered to be printed.

The President pro tem. laid before the Senate a report of the Secretary of War, communicating, in compliance with a resolution of the Senate of the 11th instant, the report of Major D. Ferguson on the country, its resources, and the route between Tucson and Lobos bay. Ordered to be printed.

On motion of Mr. SUMNER, at quarter past twelve o'clock the Senate proceeded to the consideration of Executive business.

At half past one o'clock the doors were opened and the Senate took a recess until five minutes to two o'clock. On reassembling, the hour of two o'clock having arrived, The President pro tem. (Mr. FOOT) announced the Senate adjourned without day.

### THE BREVET APPOINTMENTS.

Under a recent act of Congress authorizing the President to make brevet appointments without pay, the President has sent to the Senate a large list of names, but the Senate did not act upon them.

### THE WAR AND THE COTTON TRADE.

Speaking of the supply of cotton the European Times (Liverpool) says:

"Strange events have been produced by the civil war in America. We are now receiving cotton—in dribbles, it is true—from the most likely and unlikely places in the world. A ship has just arrived in the Mersey from China with a full cargo of this invaluable staple, and hardly a week passes without the receipt of some of the same material from quarters where, before the war, it was hardly ever heard of, much less grown. But the most extraordinary revolution in the cotton trade is the large exportation which is now taking place to the Federal States. During the last few days several cargoes of cotton have been sent from Liverpool to New York at full price, the cost of which must be largely increased by the cost of shipment. This reversal of the ordinary laws of trade will doubtless continue as long as the war lasts."

### ARRIVAL OF COTTON FROM LIVERPOOL.

The British steamer Kangaroo, from Liverpool, has on freight eight hundred and twenty-five bales of cotton; the City of Baltimore three hundred and sixty-nine bales. (N. Y. Com. Advertiser.)

### CAPTURE OF BLOCKADE RUNNERS.

Despatches received from Admiral Dupont mention the capture of the schooner B-ile, of Nassau, by the United States steamer Potomac, blockading Sapelo Sound, coast of Georgia. She purported to be bound to Port Royal, but there was found among the papers in the baggage of Richard H. Eccles, the master, a written agreement between him and the owner, (F. Opdebeck,) who was on board, to run the blockade. The cargo consisted of coffee and salt.

The Navy Department has also received a despatch from Fort Monroe announcing the arrival at Key West of the British blockade-running steamer Peterhoff, taken by the Vanderbilt off St. Thomas. The Peterhoff is a large and very fine and fast vessel, and is known to have repeatedly run the blockade. Her cargo is believed here to have been boots and shoes, saltpeetre, military clothing, &c. She makes the third of the same class of valuable steamers news of the capture of which has reached here in the last two days.

### CHEROKEE LEGISLATION.

Extract from Correspondence of the Missouri Democrat.

CAMP BLUNT, (ARK.) FEBRUARY 26, 1863. The Cherokee National Council has just adjourned. It convened in Delaware District, Cherokee Nation, a few miles from Camp John Ross, where Col. Phillips camped the Third Brigade, to guard its proceedings.

The result of this legislative assembly is the most significant and instructive. The members of the body were elected nearly two years ago. They are the old Legislature—the Legislature that was coerced into an ordinance of secession by the rebel army.

The first act of this Legislature was to repeal the ordinance of secession, which was done unanimously. The next act was to deprive of office in the nation and disqualify all who should continue to be rebellious or disloyal to the United States Government. The courts and other legal business of the nation will go on as heretofore the moment the country is peaceable enough to warrant it.

Some acts were passed relative to the expenditures of Cherokee funds. A law was enacted appointing a delegation to visit Washington about the military and civil affairs of the nation, and this delegation was authorized to abolish slavery in the nation should the Congress extend the same privilege to the nation as the Border States. This was to be a condition of the Cherokee delegation. But this could neither meet the wishes or the notions of the Cherokee legislators.

Capt. Brice Geitz, somewhat noted for fighting the rebels in the mountains before he joined the Federal service, a full-blooded Indian, and good lawyer, framed a bill for unconditional emancipation. He introduced his bill with a fine speech, and was eloquently supported by Capt. James Vann, Lieut. Col. Lewis Deming, and others. A few clung to the hope of emancipation with compensation, and urged the losses of the people already, but the majority urged that the bill ought not to be delayed. If the Government chose to pay the loyal, very well, but they would leave such a necessary act as the abolition of slavery to no contingencies, and no one should do it for them. It was their work.

When the history of this great rebellion and of this nation is written, the Cherokee shall make no mean figure. Under the leadership of Col. Phillips, they fought desperately at Newton's and Cane Hill, and have distinguished themselves in every battle of the Southwest this last season. They have fought fearlessly and bravely, second to no other troops, even while their families have suffered untold misery and disaster, and now they come cheerfully up to offer the slavery of their nation to the cause of Liberty and Union.

### MILITARY ARREST OF AN ILLINOIS JUDGE.

INDIANAPOLIS, MARCH 13.—A few days since two sergeants arrested four deserters in Clark county, Illinois. On their way to the cars with the men in charge the sergeants were arrested by a police officer and taken before Judge Constable, of the Court of Common Pleas of the fourth judicial circuit of Illinois, who committed the sergeants to jail for kidnapping, and set the four deserters at liberty. Intelligence of the affair having reached Col. H. B. Carrington, he at once notified Gen. Wright, who ordered him to arrest the Judge. The Colonel left the night before last, with two hundred men, and found the court in session. Upon its adjournment he at once arrested Chas. H. Constable, Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of the fourth judicial circuit, for retarding the arrest of deserters. All was done very quietly and cautiously, and no excitement ensued. The Colonel arrived here this evening with his prisoner, who will be tried by the United States Court. Three of the deserters were re-arrested and brought here.

### REPORTED FIGHT ON YAZOO RIVER.

CINCINNATI, MARCH 13.—A special despatch from Memphis to the Gazette gives a report of a fight on the Yazoo river, and the capture of seven thousand rebel prisoners and eight transports. No particulars are given.

A letter from Florence, Alabama, in the Mobile Register, says that Wayne county is full of renegades, styling themselves Union men, joined by deserters from the Southern army. They have become more formidable than ever. Cairo was full of excitement yesterday over rumors concerning the capture of Forts Henry and Donelson. There is nothing new from Vicksburg.

CINCINNATI, MARCH 13.—The Commercial has a rumor, via Cairo, that the rebels have re-possession of Forts Donelson and Henry. Though it is not credited, troops were ordered there for any emergency that might arise.

### NEW HAMPSHIRE ELECTION.

CONCORD, MARCH 13.—The returns from all the towns except thirteen indicate a majority against the Democratic candidate for Governor of about seven hundred.

Marcy, Democrat, for Congress in the first district, has from fifty to seventy-five majority; the second and third districts elect the Republican candidates. The State Senate stands nine Republicans and three Democrats. The House have from forty-five to fifty majority for the Republicans.

### ARREST OF BRIGHAM YOUNG.

SALT LAKE CITY, MARCH 10.—Judge Kenney this day issued a writ against Brigham Young under the polygamy act of Congress. Marshal Gibbs served it without the aid of a posse, and the writ was immediately responded to and the defendant personally appeared in court. Upon an investigation the Judge held him to bail in two thousand dollars, which was promptly given.

### WAR IN THE SOUTHWEST.

CINCINNATI, MARCH 13.—Gen. Granger's forces, who were sent in pursuit of Van Dorn, returned to Franklin on Wednesday, the rebels having fled beyond Duck river. They had several cavalry skirmishes, and some three hundred ragged fellows were picked up in the pursuit.

Rebel accounts show that in Northern Alabama the loyalists are giving the rebels a deal of trouble. Surprises, skirmishes, and all the incidental horrors of neighborhood war are witnessed.

The Gazette has a report from Memphis of the capture of Yazoo Pass and seven thousand prisoners and eight transports, which needs confirmation.

### FROM THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

Friday, March 13, 1863.

The Richmond Examiner and the Dispatch of March 13 have been received.

There is no news from Charleston, Vicksburg, or Port Hudson.

A despatch from Charleston, March 11, says all is quiet. The city is full of rumors of an impending attack, but there is nothing authentic.

The Richmond Dispatch, in a leader, speaks discouragingly of the prospects for food, and says the impression of flour and grain by the Government discourages production. The Richmond Examiner contains an announcement that Gen. Beauregard has revoked all furloughs and recalled all deserters to his posts.

### FIRE AT FORT McHENRY.

BALTIMORE, MARCH 13.—There was a fire at Fort McHenry this forenoon. It destroyed the officers' quarters. Several officers lost their baggage and other private property. The fire was accidental.

### REPORTS FROM THE SOUTHWEST.

CINCINNATI, MARCH 14.—A special from Memphis says that Admiral Porter is momentarily expecting intelligence from Haine's Bluffs announcing the arrival of our forces there, which would be the signal for a combined attack upon that fortification.

CINCINNATI, MARCH 14.—The Gazette has a Memphis despatch which says that a report was in circulation that Admiral Porter had received information that the Yazoo Pass expedition had captured Yazoo city and destroyed the rebel fleet.

CHICAGO, MARCH 14.—A special Memphis despatch of the 11th says that Gen. Quincy's division, which was forced to return from Young's Point on account of high water, stopped at Yazoo Pass, and have probably gone to reinforce that expedition, which is said to have passed Yazoo city and captured the fleet of rebel transports that has rendezvoused there for a long time.

[The expedition which captured Yazoo Pass consists of two of the largest and best iron clad gunboats, one ram, six light draught gunboats, three barges laden with coal, three steam tenders, and fifteen or eighteen transports laden with troops. The gunboats Curlew and Crested and the ram Lioness joined the expedition after it had entered the Coldwater.]

### THE ARMY IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

The Port Royal correspondent of the New York World, writing under date of the 8th instant, says:

"From General Ordens lately issued I judge that active operations will shortly be commenced. All enlisted men have been ordered to return to their regiments from detail duty, and there is great activity prevailing in the medical department in view of probable contingencies. How soon we shall commence the campaign, and at what point it is intended to strike, are secrets which nobody attempts to fathom."

"But Gen. Nagles, the senior officer of Foster's expedition, has been ordered to return North immediately by the General commanding the department. The report is that his extradition is due to complaints of the treatment of the troops under him. Whatever may be the reason his loss will be seriously felt here, for he is regarded by all as an extraordinarily fine officer and a true soldier."

Another letter of prior date confirms the accounts heretofore received of the discharge from arrest of Col. Slight and Gen. Stevenson. The letter says:

"The colors were hoisted on the vessels of Gen. Foster's expedition on Monday last in honor of the release of Chief Quartermaster Slight, who was arrested by Gen. Hunter for refusing to transfer Gen. Foster's transportation over to Gen. Hunter's Quartermaster. The recent order from Washington, recognizing Gen. Foster's forces here as still belonging to the Eighteenth Army Corps, sustains Capt. Slight in his refusal to make the transfer."

"Gen. Stevenson, who was charged with using disrespectful language against the black brigade, was honorably released by Gen. Hunter on Saturday last, having appeared at that time was nothing disloyal in what he had said. He received an ovation last evening from his brigade of the most flattering character."